

# HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

The following are the vital statistics for the year 1942.



### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area ( in acres ).....2850  
Number of inhabited houses.....5310  
Rateable value.....£137637  
Sum represented by a penny rate.....£550

#### VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>
Legitimate	145	166	311	
Illegitimate	12	5	17	15.5
	157	171	328	

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Still Birth Rate</u>
Legitimate	13	7	20	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	0.9
	13	7	20	

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
	117	102	219	10.3

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u> <u>( per 1000 births )</u>
Legitimate	5	8	13	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	5	8	13	39.6

This is a good result with the exception of the high Still Birth Rate, which is probably accounted for by the existence of the Maternity Unit. The figures indicate a survival rate for a stationary population, but an ageing one. There is however an improvement.

The chief causes of death were as follows :-

Cerebro Spinal Fever.....1  
Tuberculosis.....9  
Influenza.....1  
Malignant Disease.....29  
Circulatory Disease.....72  
Respiratory Disease.....26  
Infantile Diarrhoea.....3  
Gastric or Duodenal Ulcer.....3  
Pregnancy ( not sepsis ).....1  
Congenital.....11

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, or Maternal Sepsis.

The following cases of notifiable disease were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever.....	22
Whooping Cough.....	7
Diphtheria.....	5
Erysipelas.....	4
Measles.....	3
Pneumonia.....	3
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	29

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria

This goes on week by week in the School Clinic and Infant Welfare Clinic which is under the County Council. By this time the children show a percentage of over 70 immunised, and the children who have been "pricked", as well as parents, teachers, and above all the nurses all help in the good work.

As regards health generally there is no doubt that the children today are healthier and cleaner than they used to be. We have kept up an active campaign against Scabies, Impetigo, etc. with really good results, though there are nests of contagion still about. School dinners, school milk, increased interest in nutrition, and a more healthy life are all bringing in a reward.

There are overcrowded houses in the town, and it is a bit disappointing that some people try to make money and pleasure for themselves without thought for other people. Fortunately this is not true of the great majority.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN M.B. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF. 1942.

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Medical Officer of Health & School Medical Officer (Part-time).

NORMAN MACFADYEN, MB., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector.

NORMAN HOLT. M.S.I.A. A.R. San. I. Certs. R. San. Inst.

Clerical Staff.

PERMANENT

ROGER W. KNAPE. (serving with the R.A.F.)

TEMPORARY.

ROY J. SHARP. ( Up to July 1942)  
MRS. D. WARNCKEN. ( From July 1942)

Offices:-

Medical Officer of Health:-

123, NORTON WAY, LETCHWORTH

Sanitary Inspector:-

NEW TOWN HALL, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.  
for 1942.  
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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the work carried out during the year ending December 31st 1942.

During the period of the War, work under the Housing Acts has had to be curtailed; however, in spite of a general lack of labour and materials, many housing defects were remedied during the year by informal action.

Meat Inspection again took up a considerable amount of time, and it was also found necessary to pay frequent visits to the different food shops and food stores in the town, in connection with general Food Inspection.

I have to express my appreciation to all the Council's officials for their co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

N.HOLT.M.S.I.A. A.R. SAN.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS & NOTICES SERVED  
DURING THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER, 31st.1942.

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GENERAL  
SANITATION.

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION.

Water Supply-----	49
Drainage-----	114
Stables & Piggeries-----	5
Common Lodging Houses-----	2
Tents, Vans & Sheds-----	1
Factories-----	2
Outworkers-----	4
Bakehouses-----	6
Refuse & Salvage Collection-----	101
Refuse Disposal-----	25
Rats & Mice-----	25
Employment Agencies-----	2
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits-----	99

HOUSING.

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected-----	82
Visits paid to above houses-----	180

OVERCROWDING

Number of houses inspected-----	4
Visits paid to above houses-----	4

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of houses inspected-----	19
Number of visits to above houses-----	35

INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES.

Inquiries in cases of I.D.-----	38
Visits re Disinfection-----	27
Inquiries in cases of Scabies-----	25
Miscellaneous I.D. Visits-----	7

MEAT & FOOD  
INSPECTION.

Visits to Slaughterhouses-----	737
Visits to Butchers-----	22
Visits to Fishmongers & Poulterers-----	5
Visits to Grocers-----	71
Visits to Cowsheds-----	11
Visits to Dairies & Milkshops-----	33
Visits to Ice Cream Premises-----	1
Visits to Food Preparing Premises-----	25

NOTICES  
SERVED

Number of Informal notices served-----	71
Number of Informal notices complied with-----	61

# INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the period of the War, animals are being slaughtered at two Government Slaughterhouses controlled by the Ministry of Food, and at the Herts and Beds Co-operative Bacon Factory.

The following tables show the number of animals killed and inspected during the year:-

<u>BACON FACTORY</u>	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number killed.	-	-	-	35158	35158
Number inspected	-	-	-	35158	35158
Percentage inspected	-	-	-	100%	100%

<u>OTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSES</u>					
Number killed	2163	5051	396	2	7612
Number inspected	2163	5051	396	2	7612
Percentage inspected.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<u>TOTAL</u>					
Number killed	2163	5051	396	35160	42770
Number inspected.	2163	5051	396	35160	42770
Percentage inspected.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

During the year the following carcasses, offal, etc. were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

<u>Bacon Factory.</u>	<u>Tubercular.</u>		<u>Other than T.B.</u>		<u>Total Wt.</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>in lbs.</u>
Carcases or parts.	2760	31989	45	3590	35579
Offal	2552	9481	2064	10292	19773
<b>Total</b>	<b>5312</b>	<b>41470</b>	<b>2109</b>	<b>13882</b>	<b>55352</b>
<u>Ex other sources.</u>					
<u>Beasts.</u>					
Carcases or parts.	192	7264	33	1139	8403
Offal	448	3706	198	2091	5797
<u>Sheep</u>					
Carcases or parts.	-	-	15	418	418
Offal	-	-	30	76	76
<u>Calves</u>					
Carcases or parts.	-	-	5	149	149
Offal	-	-	3	7	7
<b>Total.</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>10970</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>3880</b>	<b>14850</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL.</b>	<b>5952</b>	<b>52440</b>	<b>2393</b>	<b>17762</b>	<b>70202</b>



## OTHER FOODS.

The following other foodstuffs, were also found to be diseased unsound and unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

Meat from Butchers Shops-----	88 lbs
Bacon-----	905 lbs
Fish-----	1484 lbs
Cheese-----	54 lbs
486 Eggs-----	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Cereals-----	230 lbs
Custard Powder-----	80 lbs
Figs-----	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Cake, Biscuits etc-----	62 lbs
Miscellaneous Foods-----	13 lbs
1085 Tinned Foods-----	2073 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs

## MILK SUPPLY.

There are three cowkeepers and milk producers, and eleven retail purveyors of milk registered in the urban district.

Inspections were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Two milk purveyors hold an annual Dealers Bottling Licence, to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested," in relation to milk bottled by them at their respective dairies, one purveyor an annual Dealer's Retailing Licence, to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested", in relation to milk retailed by him within the urban district, and another purveyor holds a Supplementary Licence, to use the designation "Pasteurised", in relation to milk retailed in Hitchin.

During the year samples of milk were taken to the Emergency Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge for bacteriological examination. 71 samples were examined with the following results:-

### MILK SAMPLES. 1942.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	-	-	-
February	5	3	8
March	5	1	6
April	3	5	8
May	-	-	-
June	2	6	8
July	3	9	12
August	-	7	7
September	5	1	6
October	7	1	8
November	8	-	8
December	-	-	-
	38	33	71

It will be seen that of these, 33 out of 71, or 46.5% were found to be unsatisfactory. Continued efforts have been made to improve the milk supply, and an improvement has been shown on the year 1941, when 43 out of 78 samples examined, a percentage of 55.1 were found to be unsatisfactory.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The following tables show the cost of refuse collection and disposal together with the materials salvaged during the year:-

Number of loads collected-----	1,966
Estimated weight-----	3,580 tons.
Cost of collection-----	£1,827
Cost per ton-----	10/3d.
Cost of disposal-----	£403
Cost per ton-----	2/3d
Cost of collection & disposal-----	£2,230
Cost per ton of collection & disposal-----	12/5d

### SALVAGE.

#### MATERIALS SALVAGED DURING THE YEAR, 1942.

	<u>WEIGHT</u>				<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
<u>PAPER</u>	308.	3.	3.	12.	1,752.	10.	10.
<u>METALS.</u> Baled Tins.	124.	0.	1.	0.	174.	5.	1.
Unbaled Tins.	13.	10.	2.	0.	6.	15.	3.
Cast Iron.	10.	2.	3.	12.	25.	6.	10.
Light Iron.	10.	11.	2.	0.	13.	4.	4.
Steel Tubing.		13.	0.	0.	1.	9.	3.
Cast Aluminium.		1.	1.	14.	1.	19.	6.
Rolled Aluminium.		3.	3.	10.	14.	9.	2.
Brass.		11.	0.	13.	14.	16.	2.
Copper.		2.	2.	0.	5.	9.	2.
Lead.		7.	2.	16.	7.	4.	5.
Battery Lead.		17.	3.	24.	11.	0.	10.
Zinc.			3.	8.		12.	0.
Pewter.				9.		13.	6.
Uncleaned Metals.		2.	0.	16.	1.	7.	7.
Incendiary Bombs.				24.		3.	0.
Tooth Paste Tubes.			2.	7.		5.	7.
<u>RAGS</u>	13.	6.	2.	7.	302.	15.	3.
<u>FELT HATS</u>				12.	1.	0.	0.
<u>SACKING.</u>	10.	5.	0.	13.	61.	6.	3.
<u>RUBBER</u>	13.	12.	3.	22.	27.	0.	0.
<u>BOTTLES</u>	7.	12.	3.	0.	47.	2.	1.
<u>JARS</u>	14.	7.	2.	18.	71.	4.	2.
<u>DRY BATTERIES</u>	13.	0.	0.	0.	16.	13.	6.
<u>BONES</u>	9.	17.	2.	10.	42.	18.	4.
<u>PIG ROOD</u>	370.	2.	0.	0.	541.	2.	9.
<u>CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS.</u>	1.	4.	3.	15.	4.	7.	1.
<b>TOTAL -</b>	<b>922.</b>	<b>19.</b>	<b>3.</b>	<b>10.</b>	<b>£3,147.</b>	<b>1.</b>	<b>11.</b>